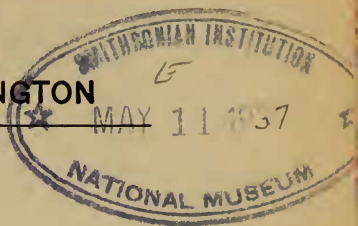


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW RACE OF DACTYLORTYX FROM HONDURAS.

BY H. B. CONOVER.

Recently the author had occasion to check over the different races of *Dactylortyx thoracicus*. In so doing he was surprised to discover that specimens from southern Honduras did not belong to either of the relatively light colored Salvadorean races, but were even darker than *D. t. chiapensis*.

The Honduran birds, therefore, may be known as

***Dactylortyx thoracicus fuscus*, new subspecies.**

Type.—From Alto Cantoral, Dept. Tegucigalpa, Honduras; No. 11,470, adult male in the Conover Collection, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago; collected January 24, 1934, by C. F. Underwood.

Characters.—Closest to *Dactylortyx thoracicus chiapensis*. The males differ from that race by being much darker on the breast, flanks, crown of the head, lower back, rump, upper wing coverts and secondaries; the white shaft streaks on the feathers of the under parts are slightly narrower. Females in comparison with *chiapensis* have the breast slightly brighter red, the abdomen more buffy and the mantle redder; the lower back, rump, upper wing coverts and secondaries have a rich golden ochraceous tinge instead of a grayish buff one. From its nearest neighbor geographically, the race *taylori*, it differs by the same characters, but to a greater degree, as *taylori* is lighter than *chiapensis*.

Description of type.—Top of the head dark brown, the feathers washed on the edges with deep rusty; feathers of the back of the neck brown with wide buff centers; mantle grayish brown; lower back, rump, and upper tail coverts olive gray, indistinctly vermiculated with buff, the upper tail coverts irregularly blotched with small spots of the same color; tail dark brown barred irregularly with buff; tertials, wing coverts and secondaries dark brown finely vermiculated with sandy brown, the tertials and wing coverts blotched with black near the extremities of the inner webs; wing coverts with pale buff shaft streaks, and the tertials with the inner webs broadly margined with golden buff; primaries brown, lightly mottled with buff on the outer web and with a small buffy white spot at the tip of the

MAY 10 1937

shaft; superciliary stripe, cheeks and throat reddish chestnut; ear coverts and spot before the eye dark brown; chest, breast and flanks dark olive brown, each feather with a very narrow white shaft line, which become broader on the flanks; abdomen white; feathers of the thighs tipped with buff; under tail coverts golden buff with black centers. Wing (flat) 137; culmen (exposed) 15.5; tarsus 35; middle toe (without claw) 32.5 mm.

Range.—Southern Honduras.

SPECIMENS EXAMINED.

Dactylortyx thoracicus chiapensis.—Mexico, Chiapas, San Cristobal, 2 ♂ (including type), 1 ♀; Guatemala, Quezaltenango, 1 ♂, Volcan Santa Maria, 1 ♀.

Dactylortyx thoracicus salvadoranus.—El Salvador, Volcan San Miguel, 2 ♂ (including type), 1 ♀.

Dactylortyx thoracicus taylori.—El Salvador, Mt. Cacaguatique, 3 ♂ (including type), 3 ♀.

Dactylortyx thoracicus fuscus.—Honduras, Dept. Tegucigalpa, Alto Cantoral, 1 ♂, Cantoral, 1 ♂; Rancho Quemado, 1 ♀, San Juancito, 2 ♀.

For the loan of material used in this investigation I wish to express my gratitude to Dr. H. C. Oberholser, of the Biological Survey, to Mr. J. L. Peters, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, to Mr. R. M. de Schauensee, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and to Mr. A. J. Van Rossem, of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. Thanks are also due to Dr. Herbert Friedmann for his assistance in the comparison of material.